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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9691  
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 9454  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ OCT 8991  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 5548  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6181  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4132  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1505  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 007623

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/22/2017  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [KJUS](#) [MARR](#) [CO](#)  
SUBJECT: MAPP/OAS CONCERNED OVER ALLEGED EXTRAJUDICIAL  
KILLINGS IN SUCRE

Classified By: Political Counselor John S. Creamer.  
Reasons: 1.4(b) and (d)

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SUMMARY  
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1. (C) An internal MAPP/OAS report outlined concerns about the disappearance of eleven young men in Sucre department, allegedly involving the 11th brigade. Six of the men (ages 16-22) were found dead days after their disappearance; the 11th brigade claimed they were killed in combat. Five remain missing. Local officials helped the young men's families file criminal complaints, and the regional offices of the Prosecutor General (Fiscalia), Human Rights Ombudsman (Defensoria), and Inspector General (Procuraduria) are investigating. Police have arrested one man so far and are searching for those missing. The MAPP/OAS and the UN High Commissioner's Office in Colombia met with the Presidential Program on Human Rights and called for a thorough investigation. END SUMMARY.

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RECRUITED FOR FARM WORK, KILLED IN COMBAT?  
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2. (C) An internal MAPP/OAS report--based on interviews with victims' families and local authorities--alleges that former paramilitary member Robinson Marboza Marza recruited eleven young men (ages 16-22) in July and August from Tolu Viejo, ostensibly to work on local farms for \$375 a month. On July 13 and August 6, shortly after the men had left their hometowns, the 11th brigade in Monteria presented the bodies of six of the men as guerrillas killed in combat. The remaining five men are missing. One family member was murdered in his home after asking about his missing nephew; other family members say they have received threats.

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AUTHORITIES SEEK ANSWERS  
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3. (C) Family members contacted local authorities and the police to challenge the military's version of events and seek exhumation of the bodies. Local officials reacted swiftly, providing a vehicle for relatives to travel from their homes to Monteria, Cordoba department, and escorted by the Mayor and police. The police continue to search for the five remaining young men. The Procuraduria filed complaints from the families against the 11th brigade. A military judge

initiated his own investigations into the brigade's claim that the men were killed in combat. Local police arrested Marboza, and he is being held in Sincelejo. The Fiscalía is investigating Marboza and issued an arrest warrant for his accomplices.

¶4. (C) Officials from the UN High Commission for Human Rights office (UNHCHR) and the OAS met with representatives of the Presidential Program on Human Rights to request protection for the family members of the deceased and to call for an open and thorough investigation. The families say they fear reprisals for their complaints against the military and believe other "recruiters" remain at large in Tolu Viejo. Witnesses claim a white truck belonging to the 11th brigade is tied to the recruiting and continues patrolling their neighborhoods. Presidential Human Rights Director Carlos Franco told us October 22 his office is following the cases closely, and believes an anti-kidnapping unit attached to the 11th brigade is responsible for the deaths.

¶5. (C) On September 13, OAS officials met with Tolu Viejo's Mayor, police inspector, the regional procurador, Sucre's Human Rights Ombudsman (Defensor), a representative from the Vice President's office, the regional coordinator for the National Commission for Reparations and Reconciliation (CNRR), a Marine lieutenant and a police intelligence official. At the meeting, the Defensor agreed to appoint a lawyer to help the families pursue their complaints and seek technical investigations on how the men died. The Procuraduria will also appoint a judicial investigator to help the families testify against Marboza, and will work with security forces to provide protection to families under threat.

¶6. (C) UNHCHR told us that the OAS account matches allegations of other reported extrajudicial killings that it has received from north coast departments. The military uses "recruiters" to offer jobs to young men with little or no family connections, many of whom are demobilized or unemployed. The young men are later presented by the military as enemies killed in combat. The UNHCHR has raised these cases with the Ministry of Defense. Poloff will visit Tolu Viejo to raise our concerns with local officials and meet with family members.

Brownfield